

Department of Correction's Westville Correctional Facility Recommended for ACA Re-Accreditation with High Marks

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J. David Donahue

Commissioner

LaPorte County, Indiana - (September 12, 2007) - Commissioner J. David Donahue was pleased to announce today that an independent audit team is recommending the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) for re-accreditation. The Facility (WCC) passed their audit with a perfect 100 percent on the mandatory standards established by the American Correctional Association (ACA), and a remarkable 98 percent on the non-mandatory ACA standards.

Three independent auditors selected by ACA from outside Indiana spent three days at WCC, touring the grounds, going through policies and procedures, and observing practices before finalizing their recommendation for re-accreditation.

"The ACA audit process is very involved and comprehensive. I am proud of the way the WCC staff worked together as a team, as well as the support of the offender population to achieve this goal," said William Wilson, Superintendent of WCC. "The success of this audit validates the commitment the facility has made to protect the public while enabling the inmates to re-enter society with new and socially acceptable life skills."

The ACA auditors commented on the high level of professionalism and dedication displayed by the facility staff in performing their duties. They were impressed with the amount of coordination that takes place to operate the facility so smoothly, given its enormous size.

"Westville has the largest secured perimeter of any prison facility in Indiana," explained Commissioner Donahue. "I am very pleased with the recommendation for re-accreditation, and I applaud the staff for their hard work and commitment to best practices."

John Schrader

Public Information Officer

Westville Correctional Facility

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About Westville Correctional Facility

Westville Correctional Facility was converted from a state mental health hospital to a prison in 1977. It sits on over 700 acres in LaPorte County, and contains minimum, medium and maximum security units. Over 3000 offenders are housed at WCC, and over 2500 are returned to the community annually from WCC.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.